

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 IO-13 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 DHA-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
SP-02 /049 W

-----251128Z 036036 /23

R 250915Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 264

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (WIDEMAN, BERNARD)

SUBJECT: WIDEMAN CASE

REF: MANILA 6988

1. WIDEMAN CALLED EMBOFF MORNING MAY 25 TO INFORM HE HAS ASKED ABC AND WASHINGTON POST TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS AT PHIL EMBASSY, WASHINGTON ABOUT HIS LACK OF VISA AND PRESS ACCREDITATION. WIDEMAN SAID HE HAD APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH TATAD TODAY, BUT APPOINTMENT WAS CANCELED. TATAD TOLD REPRESENTATIVE OF OVERSEAS PRESS ASSOCIATION MAY 24 HE DOUBTED IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER WOULD COME TO ANY FIANL VERDICT IN WIDEMAN CASE, BUT THAT HE THOUGHT WIDEMAN WOULD BE PERMITTED TO STAY. TATAD PROMISED CHECK TO SEE WHO HAD ORDERED WIDEMAN BARRED FROM RECENT NEWS EVENTS IN MANILA. BEGIN FYI - WIDEMAN HAS BEEN TOLD THAT DESPITE HIS PRO-TESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE, TATAD HIMSELF HAS GIVEN ORDERS NOT TO ADMIT HIM (WIDEMAN). END FYI.

2. IN ADDITION TO BEING DENIED ACCESS TO PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, WIDEMAN WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PERMITTED TO COVER MAY 23 AQUINO HEARING. THERE WAS ALSO AN EFFORT MADE TO DEPRIVE HIM OF UNICEF ACCREDITATION, BUT GOP BACKED DOWN WHEN UNICEF PROTESTED.

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3. WIDEMAN SAID HE IS NOT ASKING FOR EMBASSY HELP AT THIS TIME AND WILL LET HIS EMPLOYERS CARRY THE BALL. IN HIS COMMUNICATIONS TO WP AND ABC, HOWEVER, HE SAID BOTH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AND CONGRESSMAN WOLFF ASSURED HIM THAT COMMISSIONER REYES HAD PROMISED HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAY. NO FURTHER SESSIONS OF IMMIGRATION HEARING HAVE

BEEN SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME. WIDEMAN HAS OPINED TO EMBASSY THAT GOP MIGHT LET HEARINGS JUST TRAIL OFF, WITH NO CLEAR CONCLUSION.

4. COMMENT: GOP SEEMS UNWILLING TO EXPEL WIDEMAN, BUT APPARENTLY WANTS TO KEEP HIM IN LIMBO SO THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS A JOURNALIST. THIS KIND OF GAME MOST CERTAINLY WILL CREATE ADDITIONAL PR HEADACHES FOR GOP. WE SUGGEST WE AWAIT RESULTS OF REQUESTED ABC AND WASHINGTON POST DEMARCHES, AND THEN CHECK WITH WIDEMAN TO SEE HOW WE CAN WEIGH IN MOST EFFECTIVELY. BEGIN FYI--IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH CHARGE, MRS. MARCOS TERMED WIDEMAN A RADICAL AND CLAIMED NPA LEADER CORPUS HAD VISITED HIS HOME. MRS. MARCOS' PERSONAL ENMITY COULD FURTHER COMPLICATE ANY ALREADY DIFFICULT CASE. END FYI.
STULL

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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